

AB 1721 (Pavley)

Environmental Education Clean-up Bill

IN BRIEF

AB 1721 is a clean-up bill for AB 1548 (2003). This bill deletes a state mandate from the provisions of AB 1548, removes a duplicitous clause, and allows the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education to comment on any changes to the instructional materials criteria that would be proposed by the Office on Environmental Education. In addition, AB 1721 authorizes the state and regional water quality control boards allow a local jurisdiction to meet a federal requirement by contributing to a state account set up to fund AB 1548 implementation.

PROBLEM

AB 1548 (2003), as chaptered, contained a state mandate that requires that all instructional materials, when being reviewed for social and legal compliance, also be reviewed for compliance with the environmental principles and concepts as developed pursuant to the bill. This was a mandate on local school districts that could have cost the state millions of dollars in unfunded mandate reimbursement.

Also, the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Board of Education asked that they be granted commenting authority over any proposed changes to the instructional materials criteria that would be recommended by the Office on Environmental Education. Such proposed changes would be recommended in order to align future textbook adoption criteria to the Environmental Principles and Concepts as developed under AB 1548.

In addition, AB 1548 included a duplicitous and redundant clause relating to the adoption of instructional materials.

Finally, this bill would give the State Water Resources Control Board and the various Regional Water Quality Control Boards the authority to allow local jurisdictions to satisfy a federal requirement by depositing money into a state fund set up to pay for implementation of AB 1548.

THIS BILL

This bill would delete the local mandate, would provide the requested comment authority to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and to the Board of Education, and would delete the duplicitous clause. It would also allow local governments to satisfy a federal requirement by depositing funds into an account that will pay for AB 1548 implementation.

SUPPORT

California Environmental Protection
Agency/Integrated Waste Management Board –
sponsor.
State Water Resources Control Board
Heal the Bay
Windows On Our Waters
Baykeeper
The Malibu Foundation
California Wildlife Center
Rustic Canyon Partners
Environmental Charter High School
The Boesch Law Group
Hugo Neu-Proler Company

OPPOSITION

None on file.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Susan Little -- 916-319-2346